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CHINESE COMMUNISTS SET UP CONSULATE GENERAL IN LHASA, ENDING DIRECT INDO-TIBETAN RELATIONS

Comment: The occupation of Tibet has resulted in the complete domination of that country's political affairs by the Chinese Communist government. The following article from the Hindi daily newspaper Aj of Banaras indicates the steps taken by the Peiping government to reduce the level of diplomatic relations between India and Tibet. 7

New Delhi, 16 September -- The External Affairs Ministry of the Indian government announced here today that direct diplomatic relations between Tibet and India have ended as a result of a treaty signed by the governments of India and Communist China. According to this treaty, India and China will mutually establish one other post of consulate general in addition to those already in existence in Shanghai and Calcutta. The treaty has reduced the Indian mission in Lhasa to the level of consulate general and provided for the opening of a corresponding post in Bombay for the Chinese government.

The Indian commercial agencies in Gyantse, Gartok, and Yatung will be maintained as before, but their affairs will now come under the jurisdiction of the Indian consulate general in Lhasa. S. Sinha, who has headed the Indian mission in Lhasa for the last 2 years, will return to India immediately. He will be replaced by A. K. Sen, the newly designated Indian consul general in Lhasa.

The treaty has thus ended 16 years of direct Indian contacts with the Tibetan government. Modern diplomatic history between India and Tibet goes back to the tripartite Simla Conference of 1914. The conference was lead by Sir Henry McMahon of Britain, who met with the representatives of Tibet and China and finalized an

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agreement whereby China agreed to recognize the autonomy of Tibet. Relations between India and Tibet were first handled through the offices of the Indian political officer and the commercial agent stationed in Sikkim. Since 1936, however, Indian contacts with Tibet have been direct, because China's authority in Tibet was nominal.

The Chinese occupation of Tibet a year ago has changed this relationship. The change was inevitable, and India had no choice but to accept this arrangement, because the Chinese Communists now have complete control of the foreign affairs of Tibet.

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